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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

~~An object of the invention is to provide a~~ lighting unit for examining the quality of a product, wherein the lighting unit can be easily assembled, has a small number of components, and emits light from a surface at a light intensity with little unevenness. An illuminant assembly ~~3~~ of the lighting unit ~~1~~ comprises a ring-shaped transparent body ~~4~~ for light diffusion, and a plurality of illuminants ~~5~~ such as light-emitting diodes that are positioned along the periphery of the transparent body ~~4~~ and are capable of emitting light toward the center of the transparent body ~~4~~. Light emitted from the illuminants ~~5~~ passes through the transparent body ~~4~~ while being reflected and scattered, and is emitted uniformly from an underside surface ~~4c~~ of the transparent body ~~4~~, providing emission of light from a surface at an even light intensity.